

## EDITORIAL

# European Journal of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery – a High Quality Journal

D. Bergqvist

*Department of Surgery, University Hospital, S-751 85 Uppsala, Sweden*

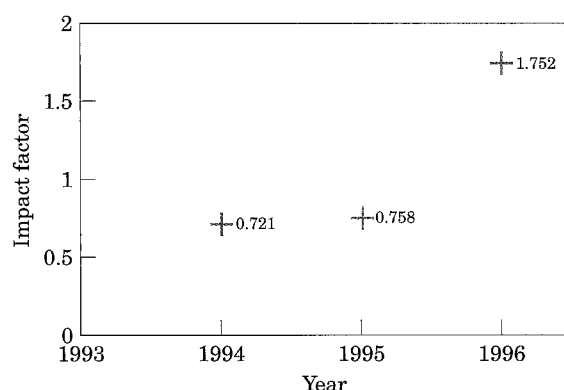
Last year, the European Journal of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery increased its frequency of publication to 12 issues a year. In an Editorial in January 1997 I stated that this had been one of my aims as Editor and that it was a sign of the journal being in healthy shape.<sup>1,2</sup> I still think it is. This move reflected the steady increase in the number of high quality original articles being submitted to the journal. This is in turn reflected in the increase in the impact factor from 0.758 to 1.752 in the latest SCI (Science Citation Index) Journal Citation Reports (Fig. 1).<sup>3</sup> This increase moves the journal up 17 places in the listing of surgery journals to 20th out of 107 titles. A new category of Peripheral Vascular Disease has been introduced, and in this the journal is ranked 13th out of 34 titles.

Currently the journal is listed twice, once under its previous title, European Journal of Vascular Surgery, and once under its new title, European Journal of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery. This idiosyncrasy

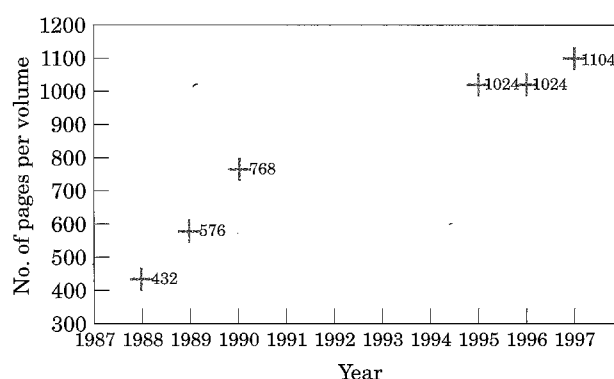
is due to constraints of the database that holds the citation data at ISI (Institute for Scientific Information). The second impact factor, for the new title, is lower but is still significantly higher than last year's figures. From next year the journal will have one impact factor, under the new title. Although the value of the impact factor for individual papers may be questioned, it seems to be a valid instrument for quality assessment of scientific journals.<sup>4</sup>

The growth in the number of high-quality articles is demonstrated by the growth in pages published in the journal (Fig. 2), whilst the rejection rate for submitted articles steadily increased, now being well above 50%. It will certainly be an editorial aim to keep the quality at a constant high level.

Now that the number of pages published and the frequency of publications has increased, the publication time is decreasing. The time for articles in this issue is for original articles 7.6 months and for case



**Fig. 1.** Impact factor for European Journal of Vascular Surgery/European Journal of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery over the years.



**Fig. 2.** Number of pages per volume of European Journal of Vascular Surgery/European Journal of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery over the years.

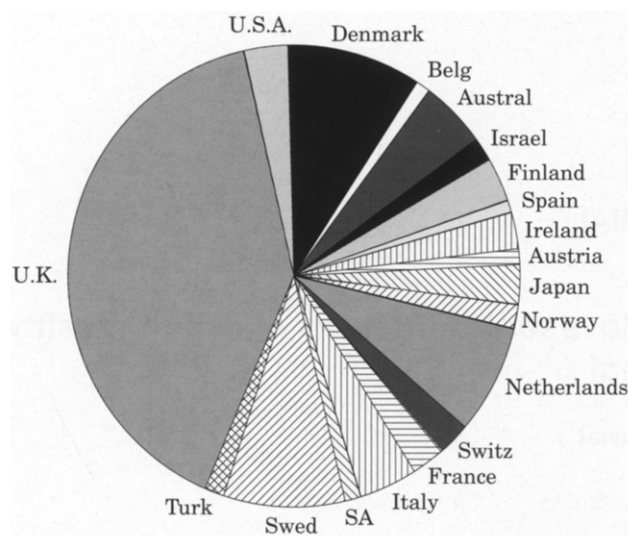


Fig. 3. Geographical distribution of articles published in European Journal of Vascular Surgery/European Journal of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery.

reports 10.1 months. We anticipate that this will continue to improve through 1998. It seems also proper to state that almost every article is sent back to the

authors for revision before final acceptance, and this process sometimes takes time.

The geographical spread of the papers published in the journal is broad (Fig. 3). Not surprisingly, most (72%) of the articles come from Europe. Within Europe, most papers come from the UK (58%), although Sweden, Denmark and The Netherlands have significant representation, particularly relative to their populations.

The journal has made a number of editorial changes to reflect the changing information needs of the vascular surgeon. The greatest of these was seen in the change of title of the journal to include endovascular techniques, which reflects the importance of vascular surgeons taking their responsibility within this new field of diagnosing and treating vascular patients.

Publishing developments include a Home Page for the journal on the Web (<http://www.hbuk.co.uk/wbs/jvs>), which publishes full editorial and subscription details about the journal. Every month, the table of contents and abstracts of each issue are posted on publication of the issue.

This information is searchable. There is also a "hot link" to the Home Page of the European Society for

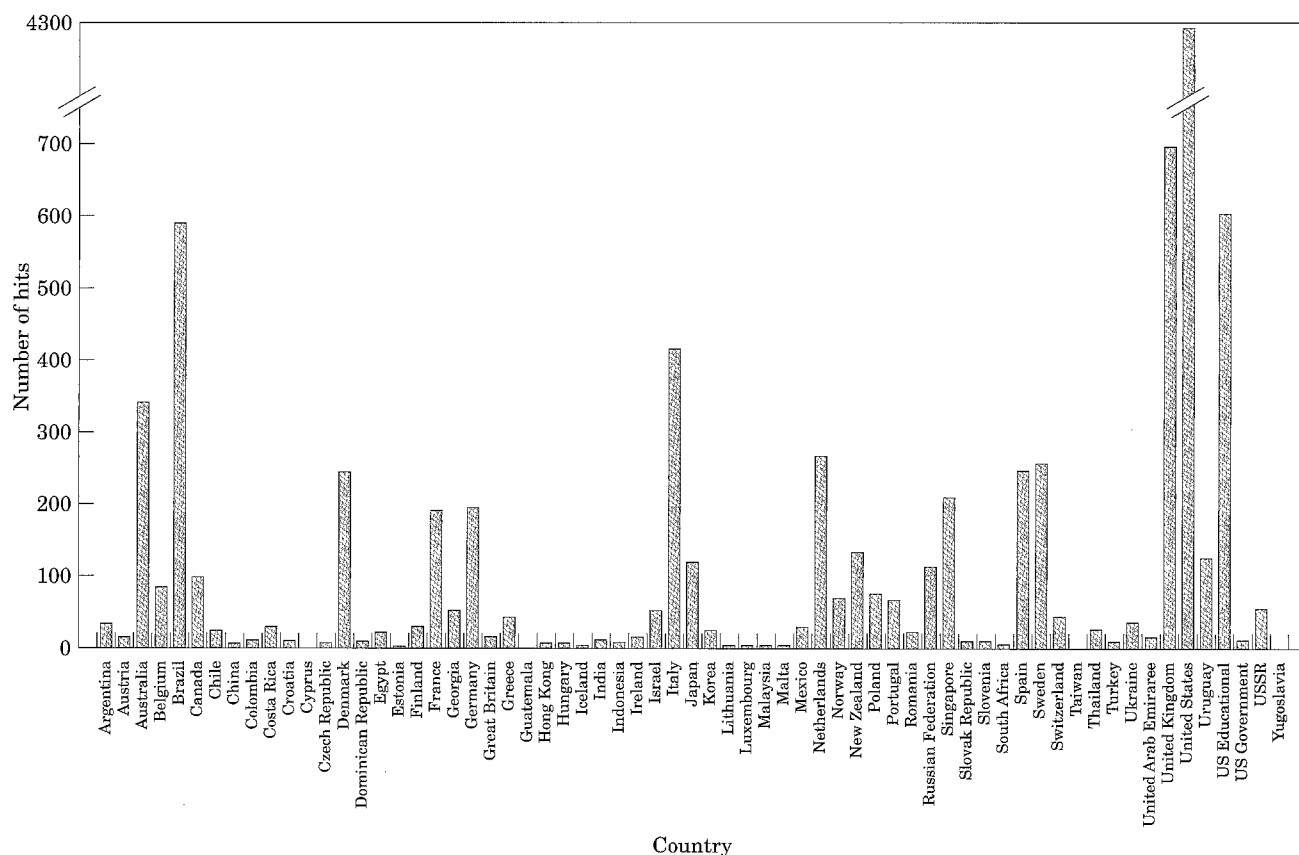


Fig. 4. Geographical breakdown of hits on the Home Page of the European Society of Vascular Surgery with link to the journal.

Vascular Surgery. The statistics of people accessing the files shows a broad range of countries from Argentina to Russia, including countries not easily penetrated by conventional marketing methods (Fig. 4). The number of hits has grown steadily over the 18 months that the Home Page has been running, now being more than 1800 hits a month. The largest number of hits come from the USA and Europe; mainly from Universities, medical schools and companies. The most frequently accessed articles are:

Ruptured popliteal artery aneurysm – an insidious complication. Sie *et al* (Volume 13, Number 5)

Long-term prognosis for patients with chronic leg ulcers: a prospective cohort study. Nelzén *et al.* (Volume 13, Number 5)

Prospects for prevention of Graft-stenosis and angioplasty restenosis. Chan (Volume 13, Number 5) (Leading article).

A systematic review of the randomised trials of carotid patch angioplasty in carotid endarterectomy. Counsell *et al.* (Volume 13, Number 4)

Factors influencing the long-term results of abdominal aortic aneurysm repair. Geroulakos *et al.* (Volume 13, Number 1)

We will, with WB Saunders, continue to develop our electronic publishing strategy with the aim of increasing the visibility and utility of the journal to vascular surgeons throughout the developed and developing world.

The circulation of the journal has continued to grow, including both members of the European Society for Vascular Surgery and library subscribers (Fig. 5). In a time when library budgets are overstretched and the number of journal titles steadily increases, we are particularly pleased to note this positive response from the libraries to our journal.

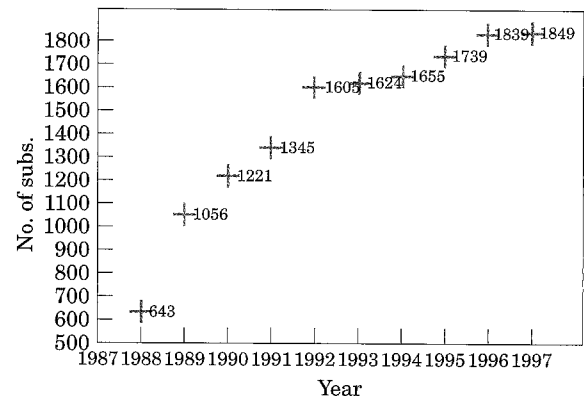


Fig. 5. Number of subscribers over the years.

In 1998 the European Journal will continue to publish editorials and invited review articles, but above all original scientific contributions. Technical notes are welcome, as is correspondence and debate. Case reports must add something important to our knowledge, not just being rare occurrences.

Being in healthy shape does not, however, give room for contemplation, and the Editorial aim is further improvement and still higher quality. At the end of the day this can be obtained only by the readership taking an active part in sending their very best manuscripts to the European Journal of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery.

## References

- 1 BERGQVIST D. Editorial. *Eur J Vasc Surg* 1992; 6: 341.
- 2 BERGQVIST D. European Journal of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery in healthy shape. *Eur J Vasc Endovasc Surg* 1997; 13: 1-2.
- 3 SCI JOURNAL CITATION REPORTS 1996. Philadelphia: Institute for Scientific Information, September 1997.
- 4 OPTHOFF T. Sense and nonsense about the impact factor. *Cardiovasc Res* 1997; 33: 1-7.